

## **Forest Conservation Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

**February 24, 2008**

Prepared by: Jim Hubbard

#### **ATTENDEES**

##### Members

Paul Allen (WSSC), ex officio  
Ginny Barnes  
Victor Bonilla  
Rick Brush  
Andrew Der  
Jim Hubbard, Vice Chair  
Dan Landry  
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio  
Daniel Lyons  
Caren Madsen  
Norman Mease  
Anne Merwin, Chair  
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio  
Dave Plummer (MSCD), ex officio

Linda Silversmith

Clark Wagner

##### Absent members

Pamela Browning  
Joshua Maisel  
Mark Pfefferle (M-NCPPC), ex officio  
Jeff Schwartz

##### Others attending

Stan Edwards  
Heather Montgomery

#### **MINUTES**

The meeting opened at 7:10 pm at the call of Chair Anne Merwin.

The chair presented an update on committee vacancies. Anne Merwin and Jim Hubbard will interview (with a staff member present) three new applicants for the open positions on the committee.

Approval of minutes for the July 2008, August 2008, September 2008, and January 2009 was postponed until the March 2009 meeting in order to give committee members more time to study them.

Heather Montgomery, a staff member of the Potomac Conservancy made a presentation on the Frederick County Public Schools Greening Initiative. The goal is to increase canopy cover on public school properties to 20% by the year 2038. The process involved seeking grant funding, a land cover analysis, demonstration tree plantings, the adoption of a tree planting goal, working with both the facilities maintenance staff and Frederick County Board of Education, the writing and signing of an agreement between the Potomac Conservancy and the Board of Education, and a press release announcing the program.

Following her presentation, a discussion was held on how the committee could foster such a program in Montgomery County. DEP staff will report on how to proceed after collecting data and consultation with the group working on the County's RainScapes Program. It was pointed out that school districts are ideal candidates for programs such as this.

SEP Staff Member Stan Edwards made a presentation on the Montgomery County Climate Protection Plan. The plan was the product of the Sustainability Working Group, authorized by County Council Bill 37-08. The group has 26 members including representatives of business, land development, energy distribution, academia and others.

The goal of the report was broader sustainability of water and air quality in Montgomery County. The report contains 58 recommendations.

According to the report, greenhouse gas emissions in Montgomery County are broken down into the following categories:

Transportation – 34%

Residential Building Energy Use – 33%

Commercial Building Energy Use – 32%

Solid Waste Management – 1%

Staff reported that several projects such as a forest and urban tree canopy study were already in progress. The goal is to devise a comprehensive approach to forest and tree regulations in the county. It was also pointed out that Senate Bill 581 in the Maryland General Assembly addresses natural resources and roadside trees.

The committee agreed that the next steps to be taken were to be in the form of advice to the County Council on what is needed in the immediate future. Those steps are:

- Inform the Council that legislation authorizing a tax credit for planting trees was an immediate and important step.
- Write a letter to the Council recommending specific items be included in the next county budget relating to increasing forest and urban canopy cover.
- A subcommittee consisting of Caren Madsen, Linda Silversmith, and Ginny Barnes will analyze the 58 recommendations in the report and inform the committee on which recommendations are appropriate for the committee to offer advice to the Council on implementation.

The next meeting will be held at the DEP offices on March 24 at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.